

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN NEW YORK CITY, JANUARY 10, 1921,
AT THE STUDIO OF MR. CARL E. AKELEY,
AND OF JANUARY 11, 1921, AT THE STUDIO OF MR. JAMES E. FRASER, NEW YORK CITY.

A Committee meeting was held in the studio of Mr. Carl E. Akeley, Seventy-seventh Street and Central Park West, on Monday, January 10, 1921, for the purpose of considering the plan for the Roosevelt Memorial.

There were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman;
Mr. Platt;
Mr. Wm. Mitchell Kendall;
Mr. Pope;
Mr. Greenleaf;
Mr. Fraser;

also Hon. Elihu Root, Chairman of the Committee on the Roosevelt Memorial; Colonel William Boyce Thompson, President, and Mr. Hermann Hagedorn, Secretary, of the Roosevelt Memorial Association; Mr. Arthur W. Page; Mr. Carl E. Akeley, sculptor; and Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Assistant to the Secretary of the Commission of Fine Arts.

Mr. Akeley reported the absence from the city of Mr. James Brite, landscape architect of the Roosevelt Memorial.

Mr. Akeley opened the conference by explaining the details of the model which was similar to that which the members of the Commission saw at a Committee meeting previously held in Mr. Akeley's studio in July, 1919, namely: - a design in a somewhat modified form adapted to the site selected by Mr. Akeley and Mr. Brite near Piney Branch about one-half a mile west of Sixteenth Street and near Rock Creek Park. Members of the Commission had thought that as Mr. Akeley and Mr. Brite had visited the site suggested by the Commission of Fine Arts at Sixteenth Street and Alaska Avenue they would prepare a model adapted to that site, after having been furnished maps and surveys, but Mr. Akeley reported that no model was made to fit the Sixteenth Street and Alaska Avenue site.

Mr. Akeley appeared to be under the impression that his model for the Rock Creek Park site would be adopted and explained the model in detail as follows:

The model constructed on a scale of 50 feet to the inch calls for a memorial including the immediate environments 2,000 feet wide (north and south) and 3,000 feet long (east and west). The Memorial would be visible from Sixteenth Street from which the central motif (the lion) would be seen at an elevation of 130 feet. The entrance of the Memorial is to be about 400 feet wide near which would be a reflecting pool. From this pool would be a gradual slope of 45 feet to a big circle having an open space of about 200 feet wide to the edge of the Memorial proper. The Memorial itself, which is to consist primarily of a huge lion in the center surrounded by concentric circles of evergreen and planting, is greatly dependent on the verdure and on the planting for effect. The lion is to be placed in the center of an open circular space having a radius of 270 feet at the edge of which granite seats would be built for visitors. Then would follow five concentric circles of evergreen. The evergreen of the first two rows would be 30 feet high, sufficiently apart so as to allow walks and vistas through them from which the lion could be seen. The other three circles would consist of evergreen of lesser height, and thence there would be a slope of about 38 feet for shrubs and greens.

The lion is to rest on a base 40 feet long. The pedestal is 15 feet high from the top of which the lion would measure a height of 21 feet. The lion is to be 30 feet long and would weigh 500 tons. It is intended to cut it out of one piece of granite, or Arizona porphyry, having a bronze color. It is estimated that the Memorial would cost about \$3,000,000.

The Committee thought a Memorial completed according to this model would be very largely dependent upon the planting, and that, therefore, most

careful consideration should be given this subject. Mr. Greenleaf, landscape architect of the Commission, advised that he very much doubted the success of maintaining so much evergreen at such an artificial height throughout the year. He stated that evergreens flourish best in a moist soil with good drainage such as is provided along mountain slopes or near the banks of rivers, whereas the climate of Washington is considered to be almost subtropical and the intense heat there during the summer months with the sun beating down upon the evergreen at such an artificial height, moreover the searching winds of winter could have a damaging effect upon the evergreen of the Memorial. The Committee recognized the fact that it would require a large sum of money each year to keep the planting in fair condition, and this would have to be assured through a permanent endowment fund, as it would be a question whether Congress would want to spend a large sum of money each year for the planting of this Memorial. On the other hand the Committee felt certain that if the planting is not kept in good condition it would be ruinous to the Memorial. Also the Committee believed that placing the Memorial to Theodore Roosevelt at this location would still not bring the Memorial in proper relation to Washington as the Capital city of the United States where should be a Memorial to Theodore Roosevelt to commemorate him as one of the great Presidents of this Nation.

The Committee discussed the Roosevelt Memorial and this model further at luncheon at the Century Club, and in the afternoon set forth its decision in the following statement:

The memorial in Washington to Theodore Roosevelt should be a memorial to Roosevelt in his public capacity - as a great President. It should be related to the plan of the City. It should express, or at least typify, his achievements and the place he occupies in the history of the country.

In studying the question of location the Commission reached the unanimous conclusion that a site on Sixteenth Street, on the axis of the White House, is the appropriate location for such a memorial.

The Commission believe that designs should be prepared for a memorial located on Sixteenth Street. Such design should be based on the public character of the man.

There are two available sites on Sixteenth Street, each of which has advantages. Should the Roosevelt Memorial Committee agree to the principles above stated, a choice between the two sites could be reached without difficulty.

The Akeley model is not adapted to a site related to the plan of Washington. It requires a large wooded area. The location selected for the Akeley design would make the memorial a subordinate point of interest unrelated to the cardinal features of the capital, and for that reason sacrificing advantages which such relationship both brings and bestows.

Again, the Akeley design depends for its success on planting of a character difficult, if not impossible, to attain, and doubly difficult to maintain. Moreover, the design expresses a phase of Roosevelt rather than the essential qualities of the public man.

The Commission feel that the design is eminently suited to a great natural site, where, taken in connection with its surroundings, it would express Roosevelt's love of nature and his achievements as a hunter and an explorer.

2. AMERICAN CEMETERIES IN FRANCE: A Committee consisting of Mr. Moore, Mr. Pope, and Mr. Greenleaf, met at the Century Club on Monday afternoon, January 10th, and considered the proposed trip abroad to visit the American Cemeteries in France. Mr. Greenleaf reported that Major Gibbs had stated that the process of removing bodies had been confined to cemeteries that are to be abandoned; that so far they have not gotten to the point of placing them into

the areas of the four proposed American national cemeteries. At the present time the Graves Registration Service in France is returning bodies to America as orders are received, as promptly as possible. However in the process of removal there is possibility that some may be buried in the proposed areas for the national cemeteries, but it is the desire of the Graves Registration Service in Washington, Colonel Pierce in charge, to have an approved plan for each of these four cemeteries before the work of interment in them is begun. The Committee therefore recommended that, inasmuch as a committee of members of the Commission of Fine Arts is to visit France and inspect these areas with a view to having an approved plan for their development adopted, orders be issued prohibiting interments in the areas for the present, to prevent possible duplication of work. Also that the War Department set forth specifically the scope of authority that the members of the Commission shall have abroad in this matter.

3. VERDUN MEDAL: On Tuesday morning, January 11, 1921, at 10:00 a.m. the following members of the Commission of Fine Arts, Messrs. Moore, Platt, Kendall, Pope, and Fraser, and Mr. Herbert Adams, former member of the Commission, met in the studio of Mr. Fraser, 3 Macdougall Alley, as a committee to inspect the models for the Verdun Medal, which had been submitted in accordance with the program of competition that expired December 31, 1920, and to make an award.

Mr. Fraser reported that eight models had been submitted within the time specified and that he had numbered each model with a similar number on the envelope containing the name of the competitor, for the purpose of identification after the award was made.

In accordance with the program of competition the reverse of each model was the same in all cases, namely, the Port Chaussee of Verdun. The design for the obverse was left to the sculptor. In several instances two models of the obverse were submitted by a sculptor in accordance with permission granted by the War Department with the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts during the

pendency of the program. After carefully inspecting the models the Committee eliminated all but No. 1 and No. 7. The obverse of No. 7 typified a soldier with dying women and children in the background. However, it was thought the sense of composition was not entirely clear. The obverse of No. 1 typified two persons in combat, which was thought a simple suggestive design of an American in combat with the enemy, and of the motto "Ils ne passeront pas".

The award was then unanimously bestowed upon Model No. 1; whereupon the envelopes were opened, which disclosed that John Flanagan, sculptor, of New York City, had submitted Model No. 1, and he was, therefore, declared the successful competitor.

The following is a list of the sculptors who competed in the program of competition with design of obverse of their model:

1. John Flanagan - obverse "A" - French soldier.
obverse "B" - Persons in combat.
2. Anthony de Francisci - obverse "A" - Eagle and Cock,
(representing the United States and France).
obverse "B" - figure symbolic of "War".
3. Sherry Fry - obverse - Angel of Peace.
4. Anna V. Hyatt - obverse - Goddess of War.
5. Robert Aitken - obverse - Soldier carried along by an
angel.
6. Henry Hering - obverse "A" - Soldier with gun.
obverse "B" - Crusader.
7. Chester Beach - obverse - Soldier with figure of dying
women and children in background.
8. Paulanship - obverse "A" - Goddess of War.
obverse "B" - Warrior with shield.

After the Committee had made the award Colonel Wyllie of the General Staff, War Department, appeared at the studio, and being asked to inspect the models and to make his selection, decided also Model No. 1 "B" was the best.

The Committee requested Mr. Fraser to advise Mr. Flanagan of the award made to him and that he would be expected to make such slight changes as would give the design the proper finish.

The Committee advised Colonel Wyllie that the Commission of Fine Arts would inform the War Department officially of the award, and that they would desire a letter written to each of the competitors under the signature of the Secretary of War thanking them for their participation in the competition. It was noted that a model had been received from all of the eight sculptors who had been asked to participate by the War Department in the competition, and they were considered to be of a high degree of excellence. The Committee was much pleased with the result of the competition.

4. MEDAL FOR FOREIGN OFFICERS: The Committee suggested to Colonel Wyllie the appropriateness of Congress bestowing a medal upon officers of the Allied countries who during the war served in the United States or in American headquarters or camps abroad. Colonel Wyllie thought it would be very fitting to do this and that he would confer with officials in the War Department in regard to the matter and report to the Commission.

5. APPOINTMENT OF LOUIS AYRES: The Committee unanimously agreed on the appointment of Louis Ayres of New York City, as successor to Wm. Mitchell Kendall, whose four year term expired September 20, 1920.

